



# THE JEWISH DAILY FORWARD

שער זדב

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV  
SAN FRANCISCO

Elul/Tishrei/Cheshvan 5767  
September/October 2007

## WHAT'S UP AT SHA'AR ZAHAV!

### CSZ-SFOP ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEETING

**September 6, 7:00–8:30 pm**

It is one of the central religious obligations in Judaism; pursue justice. One way to do this at Sha'ar Zahav is to join the CSZ San Francisco Organizing Project Committee meeting. Help us look at the next steps to continue to making history in San Francisco with our work on increasing access to health care. For more information, contact Josh Weisman [josh@sfop.org](mailto:josh@sfop.org).

### S'LICHOT SERVICES

**September 8, 8:00–10:00 pm**

Join us for this introspective, reflective, beautiful service that commences the 5768 High Holiday season.

### KEVER AVOT V'IMAHOT

**September 16, 10:00 am**

**Hills of Eternity Cemetery, Colma**

The High Holidays are a period for recalling the lasting influence of loved ones and friends upon our lives. Jewish tradition teaches us that we are to honor our dead with special moments of memorial and by living lives that reflect their highest aspirations. It is customary to visit the graves of those who enriched us with their care, counsel and love. At the grave, memorial prayers, along with the Kaddish prayer, are recited. With Rabbi Camille Shira Angel and Paul Cohen.

**For High Holiday services, see page 4.**

### EREV SUKKOT SERVICES

**September 26, 7:00 pm**

Join us for our evening celebration of Sukkot, the traditional Jewish harvest festival. Please contact the office for more details.

### SUKKOT YIZKOR SERVICE (SHEMINI ATZERET)

**October 4, 10:00 am–12:00 pm**

Come remember your loved ones by saying Kaddish at this Sukkot Yizkor Service.

**"There's More!" continued on pg 4**

## PUBLISHING THE CSZ SIDDUR

by Jeanette Nichols

When we join together in Shabbat services at Sha'ar Zahav, we hold in our hands the siddur, a beautiful collection of prayers, songs and sacred text. If we should travel to any synagogue in the world, the *siddur*, or *order* of the service, would feel familiar, yet many of us would find ourselves murmuring, "There's no place like home."

The CSZ prayer book, created by our members, is unlike others—it is a unique reflection of our diverse congregation, our history, our values, our hopes. It melds our Jewish liturgical traditions and texts with language that is egalitarian, feminist and queer-positive. Our siddur is ancient and modern, comforting and challenging, and a powerful guide for our worship and practice. It celebrates our Jewish heritage and ourselves.

But the siddur is not yet complete. The liturgy we recite, put together by committee a decade ago with over a year of work, was meant to be a beta version. It has succeeded: that gathering of suggestions has become our "alpha" version, our minhag, our custom. We love what we have, especially on Friday night (although we know there are a few corrections, here and there, that must be made). Other services, such as the shiva service, the weekday evening service, and even the Shabbat morning service, could be enriched with more readings. And, in the years since the beta version was first put together, we have created additional queer-positive liturgy, such as the amazing Pride Freedom seder, rituals for coming out and for transitioning, and prayers for bringing children into our lives.

Additionally, the spiral-bound xeroxes we now hold in our hands on Friday night and Saturday morning were never intended for a decade of use. Our holy

books of prayer are careworn, bindings bent, covers torn and missing. We also used other people's translations and readings without permission, which now must be obtained. What an opportunity for our congregation to perform mitzvot, and practice tikkun olam! Upon us is the responsibility of *hiddur mitzvah*, adorning a *mitzvah*, the sacred task of making our ritual objects used in joyous rituals beautiful. It is time to publish our beloved siddur as an adorned book.

### The Siddur Project Committee

Because a task needed doing, a committee was convened, as is our custom, and volunteer opportunities abound. A preliminary siddur committee began meeting in June and set an ambitious goal: to place a durable, bound and beautiful siddur into the hands of community at Pride Shabbat 2008. The initial committee also subdivided this large task into subcommittees, including project management, editorial, permissions, art and design, and marketing, chaired respectively by Michael Tyler (project management), Leslie Kane (editorial), Ron Edelman (permissions), myself—Jeanette Nichols (art and design), and Martin Tannenbaum (marketing). The editorial committee, which has the largest task, is further subdivided; please see the accompanying box for a full list.

Congregant Michael Tyler has agreed to be the coordinator of the project and its subcommittees. Using Chai Campaign funds dedicated to this project, we have hired two publishing professionals, Jo Ellen Kaiser as project manager and Cindy Steinberg as book designer, to create the look and feel of the book and prepare it for publication. Yet, even with all this organization, we are just at the start of the project and we need your help.

Every Israelite was able to contribute in some way in the crafting of the Ark of

*continued on pg 12*





# TEKA BASHOFAR GADOL

## LET THE GREAT SHOFAR PROCLAIM FREEDOM

Rabbi Camille Shira Angel

On a warm July day in Denmark, Karen, Lilah and I set off to enjoy the beach. By train we made our way to the small town of Gillelje on the North Coast. Sitting on our towels and making sand castles, we could see Sweden not far off in the distance. While I've seen it on a map, I never realized just how close Sweden is to Denmark.

Many know the story of how Denmark was the only occupied country that actively resisted the Nazi regime's attempts to deport its Jewish citizens. On September 28, 1943, Georg Duckwitz, a German diplomat, secretly informed the Danish resistance that the Nazis were planning to deport 7,500 Jews, starting at 10 pm on October 1, 1943, Erev Rosh Hashanah.

The Danes responded quickly, organizing a nationwide effort to smuggle the Jews by sea to neutral Sweden. Gillelje was the point of departure for some 2,000 Jews who fled to Sweden from this town and other places along the North Coast. With the help of the Danish people, the Jews found hiding places in homes, hospitals, and churches and within a two-week period, fishermen helped ferry 7,220 Danish Jews and 680 non-Jewish family members to safety in Sweden.

"Teka BaShofar Gadol" means "Let the great shofar proclaim freedom." These Hebrew words are translated into Danish

and engraved on the stunning sculpture of a joyous, towering *Baal Tekiah*, Shofarist. It was unveiled in Gillelje in the spring of 1997, to commemorate the flight of Danish Jews from Nazi Germany in 1943.

The clandestine rescue of Danish Jews was undertaken at great personal risk. Adjacent to the sculptural tribute is a list of the names of the Danish fishermen,



Righteous Gentiles, who understood the mitzvah of *pekuach nefesh*, of saving a life, even as it meant risking their own.

If you ask the Danes, they typically downplay the story, at least among my in-laws, as if there had been no choice in the matter. And yet, no other country in the world united in this way.

In the Torah, Rosh Hashanah is referred to as **Yom Teruah**—the day of sounding

the Shofar. At the day's end we hear *Tekiah Gedolah*—the long final blast. The prophet Isaiah promised that on the day of human deliverance the *shofar gadol*—the great shofar of redemption and hope—will be sounded.

In the midst of an unredeemed world, the *Tekiah Gedolah* represents our prayer for salvation. The length of the blast represents our need to keep breathing, to hold on when we have no more breath within us; that even when we are at our lowest, we must go on, we must endure and never give up. The *Tekiah Gedolah* is a sound of hope, a sound that we are resilient. A sound that life must be renewed. Although we have tragedies in our lives, we remain a people of hope.

In the midst of one of the most terrible chapters in Jewish history, the Danish people went out of their way and responded to the call of the shofar, the call to action.

This Rosh Hashanah, let us be inspired by the *Baal Tekiah*, the shofar blower standing on the shores of Gillelje, sounding the *Tekiah Gedolah*, inspiring us to acts of righteousness and loving kindness.

May this be a new year of hope, of peace, of sweetness and blessing. Karen and Lilah join me in wishing you *L'shana Tova Tikateivu*.

## CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV

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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews, and the San Francisco Organizing Project

### CSZ STAFF

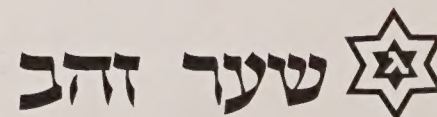
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Vice President: Drew Parker-Rose  
Vice President: Karen Schiller  
Treasurer: Tony Harris  
Recorder: Lydia Radovich





# A LISTENING CAMPAIGN

Ora Prochovnick



I just saw a new movie and it was incredible. I'm not going to tell you anything about it, not what it was about or even its name.

Such a conversation with a friend seems ludicrous to most of us. If you discovered a wonderful new restaurant, with deliciously prepared food, beautifully presented, with a lovely ambiance, would you hesitate to tell all of your friends about this experience? Similarly, if you recently saw a movie which was extremely amusing, deeply moving or otherwise entertaining wouldn't you share this information with your friends and acquaintances?

Many of us, however, are quite reluctant to similarly share this type of information about our synagogue. Perhaps this reluctance stems in part from our being taught that Jews do not "recruit," not to mention the fear that as queers we will be perceived as recruiting (remember Ellen's toaster?).

Discovering Congregation Sha'ar Zahav for the first time was experienced by some of us as a coming home. Our synagogue has been described by many of our members as a place where they can be fully themselves, where they and their families are embraced. We have created a community that seeks to support one another at times of joy and at times of grief, a shul where we can worship together and be spiritually moved, a place to educate our children and teach them our Jewish ethical values, somewhere to study and learn together. Consider what you have gained from your connection with Sha'ar Zahav, what initially brought you here and what has kept you engaged as a

member. And then consider sharing this information with your friends.

Synagogue leaders have been strategizing in recent months on ways to strengthen and grow our membership. We have begun to engage members in conversations about what belonging to Sha'ar Zahav means to them, in such a way that would increase comfort in speaking about this to others, including unaffiliated acquaintances. If you would like to become involved with this project please contact CSZ vice president, Drew Parker-Rose, or membership committee chair, Judy Schwartz.

The month of Elul, which this year runs from August 15 through September 12, is traditionally a time for introspection and preparation for the High Holidays. It is a time to think intensely about the meaning of the past time period coming to a close, and about our goals and aspirations for the coming year. We engage in this process individually, but also as a community.

This year Congregation Sha'ar Zahav has initiated an Elul Listening Campaign, with the goal of strengthening our sense of community, utilizing some of the communication tools we have acquired through our

work with the San Francisco Organizing Project. Through a series of House Meetings during Elul, we hope to involve as many congregants as possible in the experience of deeply listening to each other's stories and experiences in order to build and strengthen relationships and understand each other and ourselves more deeply. If you have not yet participated in one of these House Meetings, we strongly encourage you to do so.

*continued on pg 4*

"Imagine yourself as a  
first-time visitor.

How would you like to be  
treated?"

## VA'AD MEMBERS

Arthur Slepian  
Immediate Past President  
Joss Eldridge  
Manny Fishman  
Paula Fleisher  
Avi Goldberg  
Susan Lubeck  
Richard Meyerson  
Shelli Rawlings-Fein  
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each month—all welcome!

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# HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES

Please contact Shaun Hannan at 415-861-6932 x304 or [shaun@shaarzahav.org](mailto:shaun@shaarzahav.org) for tickets.

## EREV ROSH HASHANAH

**Wednesday, September 12**

**7:30–9:30 pm Herbst Theater**

Join us as we celebrate the sweet new year of 5768! Ma'ariv services will be held at the Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness Ave (@ McAllister). An oneg will follow at approximately 9:30 pm. **Please note that a ticket is required for this service.**

## FIRST DAY OF ROSH HASHANAH

**SHACHARIT & MUSAF**

**Thursday, September 13**

**9:30 am Herbst Theater**

Services begin at 9:30 am at the Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness Ave (@ McAllister). These services are free and open to the public. Note: The CSZ office will be closed today.

## TASHLICH PICNIC AND SERVICES

**Thursday, September 13**

**2:00–4:00 pm Crissy Field**

Join us at East Beach at Crissy Field for a 2 pm picnic, followed by Tashlich services at 3 pm. Remember to bring your apples and honey for a sweet new year! Tashlich is an opportunity for teshuvah, as you symbolically cast away all that you don't wish to carry over with you into the new year. This afternoon will be a joyous one. Be sure to bring instruments, your singing voices, children, pets, and scarves. This event is free and open to the public.

## SECOND DAY OF ROSH HASHANAH

**SHACHARIT & MUSAF**

**Friday, September 14, 9:30 am**

These services will be held at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. They are free and open to the public. Note: The CSZ office will be closed today.

## KOL NIDRE YOM KIPPUR SERVICES

**Friday, September 21**

**7:30 pm Herbst Theater**

Please join us for Kol Nidre services which begin at 7:30 pm sharp. **Please note that a ticket is required for this service.**

## YOM KIPPUR SERVICES

**Saturday, September 22**

**9:30 am Herbst Theater**

Join us for Yom Kippur services at the Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness Avenue at McAllister.

9:30 am Shacharit & Musaf

3:30 pm Traditional Mincha

3:30 pm Alternative Mincha (niggun service)

4:30 pm Reading of Names

These services are free and open to the public. For those who wish to remain in this space between Shacharit & Musaf and Mincha, there will be a study session at approximately 1:00 pm.

## YOM KIPPUR SERVICES

**YIZKOR AND NEILAH**

**Saturday, September 22**

**9:30 am Herbst Theater**

We end the day with Yizkor and Neilah 5:45 pm. **Please note that a ticket is required for this service.** Please join us for a festive break-the-fast meal following services.

## WHAT'S UP!

*cont. from page 1*

### SIMCHAT TORAH SERVICE

**October 4, 7:00 pm**

Come celebrate Simchat Torah with CSZ and our friends of Mission Minyan!

### ESTATE PLANNING LAW PANEL

**AND Q & A**

**October 9, 7:00–9:00 pm**

All are welcome to this panel discussion and Q & A on the latest trends in LGBT Estate Planning, including advanced planning, implications of state and federal laws, wealth transfer, and the documents that every family should have. Panelists to include attorney Deb Kinney of DLK Law Group, and attorneys from Goldstein, Gellman, Melbostad, Gibson & Harris.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*cont. from page 3*

If you would be interested in participating in such a conversation, to explore your relationship to Judaism as you prepare for the High Holidays and enhance your connections with other CSZ members, please contact the synagogue office for further information.

The High Holiday season is also an opportunity to reflect on where we have fallen short of some of our goals, and how we might seek to improve in the coming year. This is a good time to consider how we have been doing, both individually as well as collectively as a community, at fulfilling the imperative mitzvah of *haknasat orchim*, welcoming the stranger. How easy do we make it for newcomers to feel welcome and find community here at Sha'ar Zahav? Imagine yourself as a first-time visitor to our synagogue, or a member who has just recently joined, and think about how you would feel and how you would like

to be treated. I invite everyone to consider steps they can take in the coming year to make our building more inviting, our community more welcoming, as I make a personal commitment to do the same. This might mean pushing your personal comfort level by approaching someone you don't know in the Oneg room, or volunteering to serve as a greeter at services, or being a buddy for a newly joined member family.

May the year 5768 be a year in which our community grows, in numbers through external outreach and improved efforts at retaining members, and in strength through enhanced connection to one another, as we move closer to a world repaired. My family joins me in wishing each of you a year of sweetness and peace. And let me take this opportunity to say that if I have hurt or harmed anyone, knowingly or unknowingly, I ask their forgiveness. L'Shanah Tova.



# TORAH: FROM THE BEGINNING

by Rebecca Kaplan

In the Beginning, over 5,000 years ago, a debate about the origin of life began, a discussion about our roles in relationship to each other and with the earth. The book of Genesis begins with two different stories of human origins, told one after the other. In the first story, (Genesis 1:1 – 2:3) God is both masculine and feminine and God creates humanity "male and female" at one time. In the second version, (Genesis 2:4- 3:24), males are the first creation, and females are a "side" addition.

Human relations are not the only

distinction between these two tales of origins. In the first version, there is no "forbidden fruit" – humans are permitted to use every herb and fruit and tree – and vegetarianism may be inferred. In the second version, there is a forbidden tree, and humans are punished for eating it.

The first version is told in a "universal" style – it could refer to any people, and any place. The second version is more specific to a particular group of people, and lists the names of dwelling places and rivers, and where specific resources can be found. In terms of the overarching

sense of human's place in the world, and our relationship to basic survival, there is also a difference: in the first version, there is always enough food to eat and water to drink, but in the second version, there is lack, and suffering, and fear about not having enough.

Whether this new year 5768 will mark your first time or your 120th time delving into these ancient texts, you can always learn more. I will be teaching a class on this topic at Sha'ar Zahav, and hope to meet you there.

## **TORAH: FROM THE BEGINNING: A class led by Reb Kaplan**

**Tuesdays 7:00–9:00 pm, October 2–December 18**

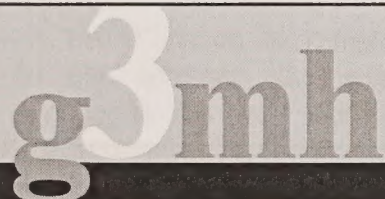
**Sha'ar Zahav**

Fee due by September 18th, 2007:

\$180 general; \$136 discount for Sha'ar Zahav members. (*financial need discount request form available*)

To register, contact Regina at 415-861-6932 x308 or Email: [Regina@shaarzahav.org](mailto:Regina@shaarzahav.org)

The class will be conducted primarily in English, while sharing insights from the Hebrew where useful. We will include a range of commentaries, from ancient ones like Rashi, to more recent ones, such as Cornel West and Starhawk, and class discussion. Torah: From the Beginning is open to all adults, and is welcoming to LGBT people and our friends and allies, people of "mixed" ancestry, and those in interfaith relationships. The class is wheelchair accessible. In consideration of those who are allergic, please refrain from wearing perfume.



■ ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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## **LEGAL HELP?**

**Contact David Gellman**

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# Pinat Yeladim U'mishpachah

Children and Family Corner



## FAMILY CALENDAR

### BABY CHAVURAH

**Sunday, September 16, 10:30 am**

**Sunday, October 21, 10:30 am**

A chance for the under-2 set to play while parents share all the best Jewish baby tips. Meet at Duboce Park (Duboce @ Noe). Rain: meet at 4:00 pm at CSZ. For more information contact Marty Rawlings-Fein at [alchemarty@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alchemarty@sbcglobal.net).

### TOT SHABBAT

**Saturday, September 15, 10:30 am**

**Saturday, October 20, 10:30 am**

For families with children ages 2 to 5. Celebrate Shabbat through music, art, prayer and fun! For more information contact Rebecca Weiner at 415-861-6932 x302 or [rebecca@shaarzahav.org](mailto:rebecca@shaarzahav.org).

### "FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE!"

**Friday, September 7, 6 pm**

Bring yourselves and your favorite grown-ups and celebrate Shabbat with us. Monthly Family Shabbat Service designed for children 0-6 years meets the first Friday of each month. Pizza provided, but please bring a vegetarian dish to share. If you wish to sponsor a future FNL dinner, please contact the synagogue office.

### FAMILY KABBALAT SHABBAT

**Friday, October 19, 6:30 pm**

Bring in Shabbat with community, blessings, food and song. Families with children of all ages are encouraged to come. Dinner is vegetarian potluck; please bring a dish to share. No RSVP required. For more information contact Rebecca Weiner at [rebecca@shaarzahav.org](mailto:rebecca@shaarzahav.org) or 415-861-6932 x302.

## SHALOM!

Rebecca Weiner

I am so excited for our first day of school on Saturday, September 8. It has been a wonderful summer getting to meet many of the people involved with the school and putting together the schedule and classes.

One of the highlights of the summer was going to New York with Rabbi Angel to meet with the Heritage Legacy Foundation from whom we received a grant. This grant will enable us to expand our Galgalim Limudim (formally Design Team) program with added support for participants and a training manual. We also will have three community-wide Havdallah celebrations. These are going to be exciting family education opportunities and give us a unique opportunity to have Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer in the evening. The dates for these Havdallah celebrations are Saturday, November 17, March 29 and May 31. The times for these events will be posted as we get closer to the event. Please mark your calendars now as these promise to be very special events.

I will be starting a new minhag (informal tradition) at opening circle. We will be creating a Shabbat box together that is filled with objects that represent Shabbat

to Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer participants. These don't need to be actual ritual objects (and in fact, shouldn't be because I would rather have you using your ritual items each week). Items can include poems, pictures, books, flowers, really any item that symbolizes what Shabbat means to you. Each week a family will share their item and why it has meaning to their family. I look forward to sharing this new ritual with you and discovering your unique Shabbat traditions.

Towards the end of month we will be continuing with our Beit Sefer Phyllis tradition of meeting in family sukkahs. I will be sending out information in the beginning of September to let you know who will be sponsoring the different sukkahs and providing directions. If you are interested in having your family sukkah be a part of the celebration, please let me know ASAP.

I can't think of a better way to begin my 5768 than being a part of the Sha'ar Zahav community. Here's wishing you all a sweet new year.

B'shalom,  
Rebecca

## BEIT SEFER DATES TO REMEMBER

### Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer begins

**Saturday September 8**

To enroll your child, or if you have questions, contact Rebecca Wiener at [Rebecca@shaarzahav.org](mailto:Rebecca@shaarzahav.org)

### NEW!

### Beit Sefer Havdallah evening celebrations

**Saturday November 17**

**Saturday March 29**

**Saturday May 31**

### BPSM Gal-galei Limudim

**YOU Can Make Waves by Teaching**

**Students at Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer!**

The Gal-galei Limudim want you!

What's the Gal-galei Limudim? It means "learning waves" and it's the new name for the Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer Design Team. Each wave is a group of adults who study together and then pick a topic to teach to a BSPM class. This year, we will be teaching in three different classes and we want you to join us. You don't need previous teaching experience, you don't have to be a parent, you don't have to know anything about children and Hebrew school curriculum. You do need to want to learn and to pass your learning on. Our first wave is starting August and there are two other waves during the year. For more information, email [BSPM\\_Design\\_Team@googlegroups.com](mailto:BSPM_Design_Team@googlegroups.com) or call Karen Schiller at 415-550-0637.



# OUR SPIRITUAL QUEST THROUGH LOS ANGELES

*Written By Yonah Levy, Kailin Koch, Allison Schaffer, Adam Kahn, Harry Weinberg, Reuben Raff, and Zach Ruylemeyer.  
Edited by Greg Lawrence*

Over the last weekend in April, seven B'nei Mitzvah students traveled to L.A. with Rabbi Angel after studying with her this past year in her Spiritual Quest class. We decided to travel down to L.A. together for a bonding experience. When we first landed in Burbank, we visited a synagogue for people recovering from substance abuse, which is relevant to our recent addiction unit of study. On Saturday we experienced a Bat Mitzvah at Wilshire Blvd. Temple. Although the service was long, we later got to cool down at Venice Beach. For dinner we went to Universal Studios City Walk and wandered around the shops. The group then returned to the hotel for our very own Havdalah, where we shared thoughts about experiencing the weekend with our various senses. Enjoying a nice night of sleep, we were rejuvenated for a fun day at Universal Studios amusement park. (YL)

The unique and awe inspiring experience that is Beit T'Shuvah is too great to tell in one sentence. Upon entering the synagogue, we were warmly and excitedly greeted by members of the congregation. Once we joined the service, a special hello – full of joyous expression – welcomed us to their community.

As the service consisted of a choir, drum, piano, and electric guitar, the night as a whole was quite musical. Many of the blessings had rhythmic twists, with R&B and Blues tones. This spectacularly musical service also included many congregants' getting up to share their life stories on numerous occasions. But no matter what their addictive substance was, whether it was heroine, alcohol, or anything in between, everyone shared a common theme; the synagogue had turned their lives around. Now this wasn't merely due to the waving of a magic wand. We found out, during a spectacular dinner between our group and two people, who were currently going through the program, that each life experience was unique and that each

of Beit T'Shuvah's patient's recovery process involved the "12 Step" program. This whole evening was an experience that none of us will ever forget! (RR)

On Saturday morning we went to Wilshire Boulevard Temple for morning services, which is where Rabbi Angel was a rabbinic intern 15 years ago! The temple was built in 1929 and the congregation has 2,600 families. The building is capable of hosting five B'nei Mitzvot at once. Along with having a cantor and a choir, there was an organist who accompanied the singers and the congregation. The sanctuary was enormous and had an ominous and awesome feel to it. Cantor Don Gurney had a beautiful voice and did an amazing duet of Sim Shalom with the Bat Mitzvah.

It was more formal than our services at CSZ, but it was interesting to observe different customs and hear new tunes for prayers. It made me appreciate the small community feel I often take for granted at CSZ. Though I liked visiting the congregation, some of us would prefer to visit a different synagogue the next time we return to the LA area. (KK)

On Saturday afternoon, after a long service, all of us were ready to expend our energy. We drove to Venice Beach to get some swimming, frisbee, and shimmying in before dinner. Upon arriving, we went to the beach and decided to go in the water, despite the freezing temperature. Zach, Yonah, and Harry even went all the way in! After we all got too cold to keep swimming, we walked down past the shops, looking at the different sites and people, and shopping for chatchkas, clothing, and such. We also learned that Venice Beach used to have a large Jewish presence, as evidenced by the two temples that were directly on the beachfront. Overall, it was a great experience. (AS)

Throughout our fun trip to Los Angeles, a lot of our time was spent in the car driving to each location. Even though

we had to spend so much time driving, the car ride aspect of the trip was very enjoyable. It was a good experience because it was filled with good, lively music, conversation, and humor. Our driving on Santa Monica Boulevard included such sights as Beverly Hills and West Hollywood, or as we called it, the LA Castro. (HW)

On Saturday, we ate dinner at Universal Studios City Walk. (ZR) We then closed the Sabbath by having a Havdalah service outside in the courtyard of our Ramada hotel. As we gathered in a circle, we spoke about and shared our memories of the trip. (HW)

On Sunday we went to Universal Studios Hollywood. It was really interesting. We all went on The Mummy roller coaster and the Jurassic Park water ride. I had never before been on the Mummy ride, and while on it, I overcame my fear of roller coasters. This was largely due to my awareness that the omnipotent Greg at my side would never allow harm to come to me.\* At the Waterworld stunt show, those of us who were sitting in the front row got soaked.

The most fun I personally had was at Universal Studios. I think that everyone had a really good time on the trip. I also had a great time hanging out with everyone. (AK)

As the afternoon progressed, we returned our rental cars and eventually got onto a plane for San Francisco. This B'nei Mitzvah class trip to LA was a bonding experience. It ranged from spiritual and educational time at Friday and Saturday Shabbat and Havdallah services, to relaxed time on Venice Beach, and even some extra sightseeing as we were confidently escorted by Rabbi Angel and Greg, with their calculated, expert navigational skills leading us confidently every step of the way of this spiritual quest through Los Angeles. (ZR)

\*It is possible that this sentence is entirely fabricated by the editor.



# DONATIONS

## ADULT EDUCATION FUND

### **Anne & Harold Eisenberg**

in honor of Amichai Lau-Lavie.  
in honor of the bar mitzvah of  
Daniel Ezekiel Dennis Ybarra.

### **Brad Brooks & Paul Warren**

in honor of Amichai Lau-Lavie on the  
occasion of Dennis Ybarra's bar mitzvah.

### **Ami Zusman**

in memory of Bernice Schustack.  
in honor of our adult B'nei Mitzvah:  
Dana, Kelley, Bill & Dennis.

## AIDS FUND DONATION

### **Allan Berenstein**

in memory of Alex Konski, David Kotch,  
Jay Feinstein, and Bill Schlichter.

### **Harold Podgur**

in memory of Florence Pierson.

## BIKKUR CHOLIM FUND

### **Judy Macks**

with deep appreciation of the love,  
support, prayers and incredible meals.

## CHAI CAMPAIGN

### **Nancy Meyer**

Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer Support

### **James Carlson**

Cantor Support

### **Richard Meyerson**

Siddur Project Support

## CHESIR STEIN MUSIC FUND

### **Ami Zusman**

in memory of Evelyn Chesir.

## CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

### **Jeffrey Piade & Martin Tilzer**

in memory of Kelly Cytron, Judy Hogan &  
Sophie Cytron-Hogan's adorable pooch,  
Chauncey.

## GENERAL FUND

### **Steve Abensohn.**

### **Anonymous**

in honor of Reuben Zellman.

### **Herta Apfel**

in honor of Steve Elman.

### **Marianne Balin**

in memory of Abie Lynette.

### **Miriam Beer**

in memory of Arthur & Magda Beer.

### **Allan Berenstein**

in memory of his grandmother,  
Perel Berenstein.  
in honor of Steve Elman's 60th birthday.

### **James Carlson**

in memory of Daniel Tuzzolino.

### **Phil Charney & Roland Stern**

in honor of Steve Elman's birthday.

### **Harry & Rosalind Citron**

in honor of Steve Elman's 60th birthday.

### **Eric & Aaron Cooper-Keitel**

in honor of Jerry Rosenstein's birthday.

### **Barbara Cymrot**

in honor of Steve Elman's 60th birthday.

### **Alan Foss**

in memory of Abie Lynette.

### **Rena Frantz & Ora Prochovnick**

in honor of Eileen Levy & Jay Dicker's  
wedding.  
in appreciation of Greg Lawrence for his  
support with Shayna's bat mitzvah.  
in appreciation of Andrew Ramer for  
supporting b'nei mitzvah.  
in honor of Steve Elman's 60th birthday.  
in honor of Lisa Katz' first half century.  
in memory of Abie Lynette.  
in honor of Will Garcia's entry into the  
covenant.  
in honor of Kevin Johnson's graduation.

### **Steven Gaynes**

in memory of his father, George Gaynes.

### **Avraham Giannini**

in memory of his friend, Chris Hewitt.

### **Arnie Jackson**

in memory of his mother, Toby Jackson.

### **Ron Lezell**

in memory of Susan Weiss.  
in honor of Walter Leiss.

### **Marc Lipschutz**

in memory of Enders Ingersoll.  
in memory of Carol Kaplan.  
in memory of Susan Weiss.

### **Laura Lowe**

in memory of Abie Lynette.  
in honor of Kevin Johnson on his  
graduation.  
in honor of Rabbi Angel.

### **The Milton & Tamar Maltz Family Foundation**

### **David Medlin & Richard Krieg**

in honor of Steve Elman's 60th birthday.

### **Nancy Meyer**

in memory of her mother,  
Nelly Levy Meyer.  
in honor of Steve Elman's 60th birthday.

### **Richard Meyerson**

in memory of Abie Lynette.

### **George Mintzer**

in memory of his mother, Rose Mintzer.

### **Jeanette Nichols & Daryl Goldman**

in honor of Steve Elman's 60th birthday.

### **Carolyn Pines & Judy Schwartz**

in honor of CSZ staff, Howard Steiermann,  
Larry Best, & Joel Siegel with their  
sincere thanks to all for your assistance  
with Hannah's bat mitzvah.

### **Judith & Jess Polakoff**

in honor of Steve Elman's 60th birthday.

### **Michael & Arline Rochkind**

in honor of Amy Schustack &  
Michael Tyler.

### **David Rosenbaum & Joanne Mogannam**

in honor of Steve Elman's 60th birthday.

### **Herman & Rosalie Rosenbaum**

in honor of Steve Elman's 60th birthday.

### **Martin Sinkoff**

in honor of Richard Sinkoff.

### **Ronald Spector**

in honor of Steve Elman.

### **Jonathon Thunderword.**

### **Martin Tilzer & Jeff Piade**

in honor of Will Garcia's entry into the  
covenant.

### **Susan Tubbesing**

in memory of her aunt, Doris Bezman.  
in memory of Enders Ingersoll.  
in memory of Susan Weiss.  
in memory of Abie Lynette.

### **Leon & Clara Vermont**

in honor of Steve Elman's special birthday.

### **Lonnie Weiss**

in memory of Jackie Weiss, Helene Blau,  
Susan Esther Weiss, Betty Edelman,  
Carol Kaplan, and Daniel Lahn.  
in honor of Shayna Prochovnick's  
bat mitzvah.

### **Marc Wernick**

in memory of Abie Lynette.

### **Zephyr Real Estate**

in memory of Abie Lynette.

## HIGH HOLIDAY PLEDGE 5767 **Jeffrey Piade.**

## PHYLLIS MINTZER

## EDUCATION FUND

### **Marc & Maricris Argarin**

in honor of Steven Mazer.

### **Dvora & Eric Citron**

in honor of Steve Elman's 60th birthday.

### **Rena Frantz & Ora Prochovnick**

in honor of Sarita Groisser, Shayna's  
bat mitzvah mentor.



**Ami Zusman**

in honor of the birth of Michelle and Rebecca Zable.

in honor of the naming of Toby Persiko Benjamin.

in honor of Hannah Pines-Schwartz.

**PRAYERBOOK/SIDDUR FUND****Bertram & Florence Silver**

in honor of Steve Elman's 60th birthday.

**RABBI JULIUS & PEARL FUNK****MUSICAL EVENT FUND****John Arnold**

in honor of Jonathan Funk's 50th birthday.

**Mark Blecher**

in honor of Jonathan Funk's 50th birthday.

**Karen Brown & Sherri Conrad**

in honor of Jonathan Funk's 50th birthday.

**James Carlson**

in honor of Jonathan Funk's 50th birthday.

in memory of his mother, Jan Tuzzolino.

in memory of Susan Weiss.

**Chris & Mary Cochran**

in honor of Jonathan Funk's 50th birthday.

**Pieter de Haan & Ruth Rainero**

in honor of Jonathan Funk's 50th birthday.

**Steven Elman**

in memory of Jim Kurokawa.

**Jason Feinberg**

in honor of Jonathan Funk's 50th birthday.

**Jonathan Funk & John Arnold**

in honor of Jonathan & John's anniversary.

in honor of Jonathan's friend, Alan Harap.

in memory of John Arnold's friend,

Glenn Edward Lipskey.

in memory of Samuel Aron.

in memory of Rosemary Tuzzolino.

**Richard Gisi**

in honor of Jonathan Funk's 50th birthday.

**Robert La Mont**

in honor of Jonathan Funk's 50th birthday.

**Mark Mackler**

in honor of Jonathan Funk's 50th birthday.

**Elizabeth Newman**

in memory of Rabbi Julius Funk.

**Joel Paul**

in honor of Jonathan Funk's 50th birthday.

**Dale Petros**

in honor of Jonathan Funk's 50th birthday.

**Leah & Isaak Rubin**

in honor of Jonathan Funk's 50th birthday.

**Sharyn Saslafsky**

in honor of Jonathan Funk's 50th birthday.

**Marcia Scheu**

in honor of Jonathan Funk's 50th birthday.

**Alan Schwartz & Susan Berger**

in honor of Jonathan Funk's 50th birthday.

**Michael & Janet Slifer**

in honor of Jonathan Funk's 50th birthday.

**RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND****Robert & Dorothy Benya**

in honor of Steve Elman's 60th birthday.

**Allan Berenstein**

in memory of Susan Weiss.

in memory of your grandmother,

Sadie Radetsky.

**Nicole Bloom & Sue Swigart**

with gratitude and honor to

Rabbi Camille Angel.

**Rachel Field**

in honor of Rabbi Angel and

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

**Rena Frantz & Ora Prochovnick**

in appreciation of Rabbi Angel for

Shayna's bat mitzvah.

**Batya Kalis**

in honor of Rabbi Angel's award at

Israel in the Gardens.

**Joan Lefkowitz & Stacey Shuster**

in honor of Rabbi Angel.

**Nancy Meyer**

in memory of Abie Lynette.

**Carolyn Pines & Judy Schwartz**

in honor of Hannah's bat mitzvah.

**Susan Randolph**

in honor of Steve Elman's 60th birthday.

**Gerald Rosenstein**

in memory of Susan Weiss.

**Sharyn Saslafsky**

in honor of Nancy Meyer's 60th birthday.

**Michael Zimmerman**

in memory of Roz Fuerman.

**RAINBOW FUND 5767****Richard Allman****Diana Buchbinder & Jeane Redsecker.****James Carlson.****Sybil Meyer & Mary Anne Ruyle.****Florence Nacamulli.****Jeffrey Piade.****Stephen Weiner.****Lonnie Weiss.****RITUAL FUND****Ami Zusman**

in memory of Harold Fyne.

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DONATE YOUR MONEY  
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Donate your garage-sale worthy stuff to Community Thrift (Valencia St @ 17th), mention CSZ, and the shul gets a portion of sale proceeds.



# SPONSORSHIPS

## JUNE

1/2

Bimah flowers generously sponsored by **Janet Klein & Lisa DiGirolamo** in honor of their son, Asa's 5th birthday.

Friday Oneg generously sponsored by **Rena Frantz** in honor of Ora's 50th birthday.

Friday childcare generously sponsored by **Sue Bojdak & Debra Yates** in honor of the transgender community.

8/9

Friday Oneg generously sponsored in memory of Louis Byer.

15/16

Bimah flowers generously sponsored by **Michael Tyler & Amy Schustack** in honor of their 24th wedding anniversary.

Friday childcare generously sponsored by **the Garcia-Goldberg family** in memory of their aunt and great-aunt, Doris Holtz.

Saturday Kiddush generously sponsored by **the Zingman-Daniels family** in

honor of the week's service leaders: Jo Ellen Green Kaiser, Ron Edelman and Naomi Zingman-Daniels.

22/23

Friday Oneg generously sponsored by **Eileen Levy & Jay Dicker** in honor of their aufruf and wedding.

Friday childcare generously sponsored by **Joan Goldman** in honor of the bat mitzvah of Shayna Prochovnick.

Saturday Kiddush generously sponsored by **Rena Frantz & Ora Prochovnick** in honor of their daughter, Shayna Prochovnick's bat mitzvah.

29/30

Saturday Kiddush generously sponsored by **the Crow Rosenfeld family** in honor of Arno's bar mitzvah.

## JULY

6/7

Bimah flowers generously sponsored by **Nancy Kates** in memory of her father, Marshall Kates, and her grandmother, Annabelle Harris.

Friday Oneg generously sponsored by **Martin Tannenbaum & Alex Ingersoll**

in honor of 30 fabulous years of Va'ad leadership.

Friday childcare generously sponsored by **Drew Parker-Rose**

Saturday Kiddush generously sponsored by **Patricia Lin** in memory of her grandmother, Yen-Huang Yu, and in honor of her aunt, Jean Yu Pan.

20/21

Bimah flowers generously sponsored by **the Cymrot-Wu family** in memory of Leah Isa Cymrot-Wu.

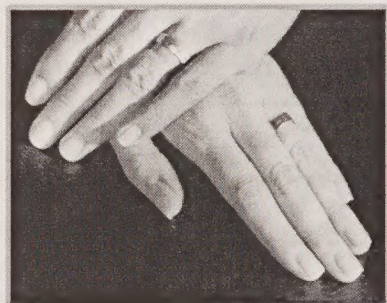
Friday Oneg generously sponsored by **Richard Meyerson** in honor of the launch of the project to publish the new Siddur.

27/28

Friday Oneg generously sponsored by **Henry Carrey** in memory of his mother, Leyke Bat FrahdI V'Shloime.

Saturday Kiddush generously sponsored by **Beth Sousa & Sara Haber** in honor of studying Torah.

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# NEW MEMBERS

## **We happily welcome:**

Stephanie Golden

Harriet Rafter

Sam Boutlon and his partner Mitchell Bolen (an affiliate of CSZ)

Vanessa Eisemann and Cate Whiting

## **We warmly welcome back returning members**

Henry Carrey

Steve Berlin and Ed Schultz

The Weber-Fineberg family: Julia Weber, Charles Fineberg, and 5-year-old Zachary Fineberg.



*Open House August 2007*

# NACHES

**Tobias Gregory Persiko Benjamin**, and his fathers Craig Persiko and Geoff Benjamin, on Toby's Hebrew naming, which took place on Saturday, June 2.

**Christina and Harold Zable** on the birth of their twin daughters on May 31: Michelle Esther Zable (older by one minute) at 6 lbs 7 oz, 19.5" and Rebecca Louise Zable at 5 lbs. 1 oz, 16.5".

A huge thank you goes out to all the CSZ members, staff, and friends involved in making our Transgender Celebration Shabbat an enormous success: **Leo Hill, Marty Rawlings-Fein, Ben Lunine, Lisa Szer, Robert Bernardo, Joss Eldredge, Ina Turpen Fried, Ora Prochovnick, Laura Lowe, Nancy Brunn, Ron Edelman, Max Strassfeld, AJ Turpen Fried, Barbara Cymrot, Abi Weissman, Chanah Harei-Orr, Sara Haber, Mercedes Navarro, Karen Schiller, Kevin Johnson, Rachel Kliegman, Zohar WeimanKelman, Rabbi Camille Angel, Reuben Zellman, Regina Wurst, Greg Lawrence, and Shaun Hannan.**

Yishar Kochacha to **Helen Cohen** on the recent launching of her website, [www.openstudioproductions.com](http://www.openstudioproductions.com). It currently features her work as a painter and documentary filmmaker, including over 30 paintings. Be sure to check back often, as it will shortly exhibit film and photography by her partner, and fellow CSZ member, Mark Lipman.

**Andrew Ramer** whose story about being a queer Jew and CSZ member can be

found in the new anthology, *Love Castro Street*: <http://alysonbooks.stores.yahoo.net/bcast.html> His story about being a male lesbian can be found in another new anthology, *Identity Envy*. <https://www.haworthpress.com/store/product.asp?sku=5641>

**Naomi Ben-Or** on her engagement to Gary Rosenblum. Naomi is the daughter of CSZ member Melanie Miguel, step-daughter of CSZ member Michael Shiloh, and granddaughter of CSZ members Ruth and Ron Miguel. Mazel tov to the entire Miguel-Shiloh-Ben-Or-Rosenblum extended family!

Yishar Kochacha to **Rabbi Angel** who was honored with the Israel in our Hearts award at this year's Israel in the Gardens in June.

**The entire Garcia-Goldberg Family.** On June 14, Will Garcia, and his and Avi's two sons, Shai and Boaz Garcia-Goldberg, each received his ritual mikvah.

**Shayna Prochovnick** and her family on the occasion of Shayna becoming a bat mitzvah on Saturday, June 23.

Thank you to all who showed up for the Pride Parade. We appreciate your patience as you waited for nearly two hours in the sun. We thank you for marching with Pride as you shared with over 1 million people the existence of our beautiful community.

**Arno Rosenfeld** and his family on the occasion of Arno becoming a bar mitzvah on Saturday, June 30.

**Eileen Levy and Jay Dicker** on their marriage, Sunday, July 1, which took place in Chicago.

Yishar Kochacha to **Tsipora Prochovnick**, who took second place in this year's annual KQED digital storytelling contest. Contestants are high school students from all over northern California, who produce an autobiographical digital story telling the tale of how their family migrated to California. Tsipora's winning digital story can be viewed at: <http://dsi.kqed.org/index.php/contest/about/C82/>.

**Mary Schroeder** on her new position as Program Director of Maitri. Maitri provides compassionate residential care to people living with AIDS.

**Hal Podgur** on his grandson Matt's graduating Magna Cum Laude from Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo.

**The staff of Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer**, which received a Legacy Heritage Grant.

**Josh Shuster-Lefkowitz**, member and intern-extraordinaire, who has been helping out in countless ways around CSZ. From the office to you, Josh, we are forever grateful.

## **Keep the Naches coming!**

Send good news to Greg Lawrence at [greg@shaarzahav.org](mailto:greg@shaarzahav.org)



# PUBLISHING THE CSZ SIDDUR

cont. from page 1

the Covenant: donating gold and jewels and fragrant woods, building, carving, smelting, sewing. This project is a little like that; everyone can contribute: donations of funds and ideas, writing, editing, proofreading, and much more. A set of submission guidelines is available at the CSZ office for anyone interested; to volunteer, contact any of the committee chairs listed; for any other questions, comments, etc, contact Michael Tyler at MichaelTyler@msn.com (617-504-8579) or Jo Ellen Kaiser at jgkaiser@earthlink.net (415 939-0823)!

We have already held one open house, on August 14, to introduce the project. We will be holding another open house in October, and a study session on liturgy at Yom Kippur. We will publicize our monthly meetings and keep you updated via articles in the JGF. You can also find a time line posted on the walls of the



*This medieval siddur shows how beautiful siddur design can be.*

shul, and by October you will see "mood boards" with examples of how the siddur might look and feel. We hope you will go beyond keeping tabs on the project and instead become a part of it. The siddur belongs to all of us, and we would love to have everyone involved in some way.

Once published, our siddur can become an open gate, and the ideas and values and history of Sha'ar Zahav can be shared. Our siddur, which affirms our highest progressive values, has the potential to be welcomed in many congregations and we hope to make it available as a resource for the greater Jewish community. And perhaps, one day when we travel and visit a distant synagogue, we will open a siddur and hear ourselves murmuring, "Even here, I am home."

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN THE SIDDUR PROJECT

The siddur project wants and needs volunteers! Here are ways to get involved:

### **Editorial Committee**

#### **Chair, Leslie Kane**

lkanesf@gmail.com

415-644-3373

415-777-9060x205

The Editorial Committee is calling for submissions to the siddur. A very detailed FAQ for contributors is available at the CSZ office and on the CSZ website which describes what sorts of submissions the committee hopes to receive, the form they should take, and more. Please read that first before getting in touch, as it answers most questions. Deadline for submissions is November 1.

### **Permissions**

#### **Chair, Ron Edelman**

Ron.Edelman@earthlink.net

415-641-5331

CSZ must obtain legal permission to reprint any piece of writing in our siddur

that was written after 1920. This is a huge task, but the good news is we all can help. If you are willing to use Google to locate the authors of various texts and the original publishers; make phone calls to various publishers to find the right person to send requests; mail out the form letters Ron has created; or do follow-up by phone, please contact Ron.

### **Art and Design**

#### **Chair, Jeanette Nichols**

jnichols@mail.cho.org

We want our siddur to look beautiful and be readable. Join the Art and Design Committee, which will be coming up with guidelines for beautifying the siddur and providing first draft feedback to our professional graphic designer.

### **Marketing and Fundraising**

#### **Chair, Martin Tannenbaum**

MHTannen@aol.com

415-647-8378

It's never too soon to think about the future! This committee will research what

markets there will be for our siddur, and how to introduce our siddur to those markets. Martin is also the person to contact if you have questions or ideas about fundraising for the siddur.

### **Steering Committee**

#### **Chair, Michael Tyler**

MichaelTyler@msn.com

617-504-8576

There is a steering committee leading the siddur project, under the guidance and authorization of Rabbi Angel and the Va'ad. This committee is chaired by Michael Tyler and meets regularly to oversee all aspects of the publication process, including editorial, design, finance, and marketing. For more information on this committee or any other aspect of the siddur publication process, please contact Michael or the project manager, Jo Ellen Kaiser at jgkaiser@earthlink.net or 415-939-0823



# YIZKOR FOR GLBTIQ SUICIDES: THE SENT(A)MENTAL PROJECT

By Dylan Scholinski

I have lost many people to suicide over the years—and considered suicide myself. It is this experience that has inspired me to launch the Sent(a)Mental Memorial Project focused on remembering the GLBTIQ people who committed suicide, those who survived attempts, and those whose loved ones have died.

This project hopes to bring visibility to mental health issues and much needed attention to the thousands of people lost within our community over the years due to a lack of dialogue around these issues. Like the Names Project, this project will include both visual and written expression, including painting, drawing, poetry, stories, photos, music and simply names and dates.

In addition to pieces about those who have successfully committed suicide, I am including another section for survivor stories. I want to hear about and from GLBTIQ people who have survived attempts as well as from those who have loved us. I feel it is important for all of us to be represented and heard. The silence around these issues is killing us. If this project can save just one life that will be good enough, but I believe we have the power to save many. It is up to us—because from where I sit—nobody else is doing it.

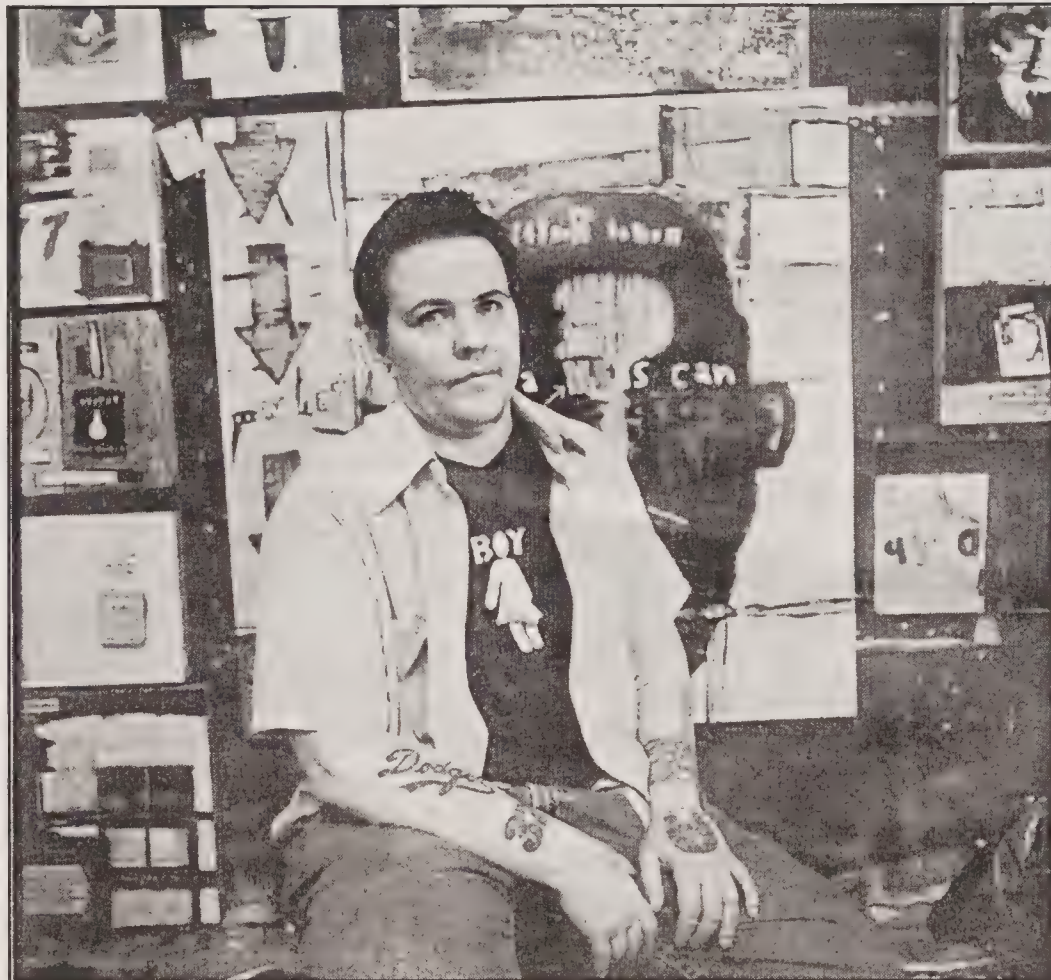
I want to invite everyone to send stories and pictures to be included in this project about anyone who comes to your mind or lives in your heart.

I will be organizing showings, putting together zines of contributions, and hope to eventually set up a website. If you would like to help with any part of this project please let me know.

The Submission Guidelines Are Easy:

Size: Postcards, Cds, or up to 8 1/2" x 11" Paper (could be multiple pages and/or larger sizes if cleared first to insure proper storage)

Medium: Open



Dylan Scholinski with some of the art from the Sent(a)Mental Project

Other information that should be included with your submissions:

For my records I will need your contact information. Please specify if you want your info posted so others may contact you. I will also need a name of who the submission is about. I may get more than one submission about each person and I want to show the pieces together. They can still be listed as anonymous if necessary. In addition to names you may include birth/death dates, obituaries, photos, and any other biographical information.

Send submissions or questions/contact to:

Dylan Scholinski  
Sent(a)Mental Studios  
PO Box 13559  
Denver CO 80201  
sentamentalstudios@yahoo.com  
www.dylanscholinski.com  
http://www.myspace.com/  
dylanscholinski\_

## OUT OF THE DARKNESS COMMUNITY WALK

**September 29, at Crissy Field**

Help raise funds and awareness for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention by participating in what is sure to be a powerful experience. Email Abi at [abiweissman@gmail.com](mailto:abiweissman@gmail.com) or Sharon at [purplemustard82@gmail.com](mailto:purplemustard82@gmail.com) to walk, organize a carpool, or learn more about this event. Join **Team CSZ** by visiting <http://www.outofthedarkness.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=communityWalks.team&teamID=2904>.

If you can't make it to the walk itself, please consider making a donation to our team by clicking "support this participant" next to one of the names at the bottom of the aforementioned website.



# GIFTS TO THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

by Nina Wouk for the Ritual Committee

At Yizkor services, contemporary liberal Jews feel the value of remembering those we have loved and lost: "When we are weary and in need of strength... When we are lost and sick at heart... When we have joys we yearn to share... As long as we live, they too shall live, for they are a part of us, as we remember them." Our remembering, and perhaps only our remembering, keeps the beloved dead alive.

However Yizkor grew out of an older mentality, an ancient, persistent belief that the acts of the living could help the dead. Perhaps the desire to help is a substitute for the impossible wish, bringing them back. Perhaps it reflects regret for good undone, or the desire to repay good done, or simply the memory of sharing the high points of earlier years. Other peoples have tried to care for their dead by making offerings to them. Jews, as early as the Talmudic era, also gave: they remembered the dead by giving tzedakah in their names on Yom Kippur.

Prayer on behalf of the dead is equally ancient: an early medieval source credits Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai with releasing the soul of a sinner from Gehenna by teaching the dead man's son to read from the Torah scroll and recite the appropriate blessings. When the congregation, as part of the blessing, praised God's name, the dead man was free. The Mourner's Kaddish developed centuries later, giving every mourner a moment of ritual leadership in honor and aid of the dead. However according to the Talmud, a shortened sentence is not the primary purpose of remembering; all the dead wish and need to be ritually remembered for its own sake. When a man died and left no mourners, Rabbi Yehudah organized a minyan to sit shiva for him; the man's ghost thanked him in a dream for 'setting my mind at rest.'

These stories are centuries older than Yizkor, which is part of the Ashkenazic liturgy only, having most likely been composed in the Rhineland in response to the slaughters of the First Crusade. In 1096, roving groups of peasants, seeking infidels to fight, destroyed many

of the Jewish communities of Europe. Later Crusades brought continued attacks and atrocities. Jews kept the memories of the dead alive by reading their names aloud from Yizkor books on Yom Kippur. Over time, such memorial lists came to include not only martyrs but all the dead of a community. This public remembrance developed into the Yizkor service.

Medieval Jews believed that on Yom Kippur the dead needed atonement as much as the living, but were unable to achieve it for themselves. Yizkor, being a private prayer, could not provide the benefit of causing God's name to be praised in public. Instead, the traditional Yizkor prayer includes a pledge to give

"Yizkor grew out of an ancient, persistent belief that the acts of the living could help the dead."

tzedakah, which was believed shorten the time that the recently dead spent in Gehenna, or to make the difference between non-existence and an after-life in Gan Eden. The pledge also allowed the living an additional mitzvah to fulfill on the Day of Judgment, when they felt their lives hanging in the balance.

The prayer asks God to take note of the tzedakah and let it be a merit for the soul of the dead. However all souls still in existence a year after death, save those of the most egregious sinners, were believed to be safely in heaven. Rabbi Isaac Luria rescued the ability of the living to help the dead by explaining that even souls in Gan Eden could benefit, moving to higher heavens.

In Germany, during the relatively peaceful and prosperous eighteenth century, the

Yizkor service was extended to the last days of the biblical pilgrimage festivals, Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot/Shemini Atzeret. Its pledge of tzedakah allowed congregants to fulfill the words of the Torah reading they had just heard: "They shall not appear before the Eternal empty handed, but every person shall give according to the gift of his hand." Remembering, the gift of the heart, remained inseparable from action in the world, gift of the hand.

There may or may not be an after-life; if there is, the acts of the living may or may not affect it. Yizkor can be recited silently, inwardly, solely for the purpose of calling departed loved ones to mind. But our tradition calls on us to do more: to turn that recollection outward, acting in the world to keep their names alive through righteous acts performed in their memory.

## WE REMEMBER THEM

At the rising of the sun and  
at its going down  
We remember them.

At the blowing of the wind and  
the chill of winter  
We remember them.

At the opening of the buds and  
in the rebirth of spring  
We remember them.

At the blueness of the skies and  
in the warmth of summer  
We remember them.

At the rustling of the leaves and  
in the beauty of autumn  
We remember them.

At the beginning of the year and  
when it ends  
We remember them.

As long as we live,  
they too will live;  
for they are now a part of us,  
as we remember them.



## CONDOLENCES

**Sharyn Saslafsky**, on the death of her uncle, Harry Levine.

**Billie Mandel**, on the death of her great-aunt, Celia (Tsipi) Bilfield.

**Avi Goldberg, Will Garcia, and Shai & Boaz Garcia-Goldberg** on the death of Avi's aunt, Doris Holtz.

**Eileen Lynette**, on the death of her father, Abie S. Lynette.

**Deena Lahn**, on the death of her father, Daniel Lahn.

**Ellen Berger**, on the death of her friend, Larry Lehman.

**The Family of Matthew Rostoker**, a member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

**Ron Edelman**, on the death of his cousin, Geoffrey Seidler.

**Gail Ludwig**, on the death of her aunt, Carol Kaplan.

**Alex Ingersoll**, on the death of his uncle, Enders Ingersoll.

**Randy Weiss**, on the death of his mother, Susan Esther Weiss.

## YAHREZEITS

### SEPTEMBER

- 1 John Golebowski
- 3 Lee Gierson
- 5 Bernard Pechter
- 15 David Pierce
- 17 Frank Hyman
- 18 Penny Dachinger
- 19 Gershon Lieberman
- 25 Jeffrey Lewis Cohen
- 27 Drew Siegel

### OCTOBER

- 1 Rabbi Benjamin Marcus
- 6 Jeffrey Miller
- 8 Duane Kearns Puryear
- 12 Andrew Zysman
- 13 Harry Clint Bigglestone
- 18 Henry Mautner
- 24 Glen Murray Miller
- 28 Harvey Levine
- 29 Michael Mohr
- 29 Richard D. Wright

*We apologize for the omission of former member Mavis Eldredge, mother of Joss Eldredge, in July/August's JGF.*

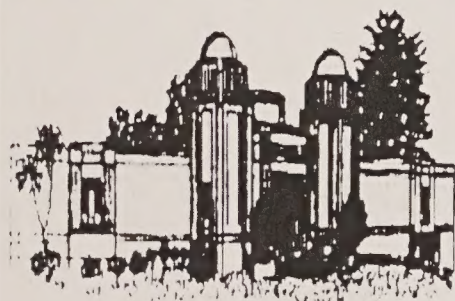
### AUGUST

- 4 Mavis Eldredge

*A Memorial Service for CSZ member Matthew Rostoker will be held at Sha'ar Zahav on Sunday, September 30, at 3 pm. The service will be lead by Rabbi Angel and members of his immediate family will be in attendance. We hope that you will be present to honor Matthew's memory. All are welcome to stay for refreshments following the service.*

## BIKKUR CHOLIM

If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, please notify the synagogue office.



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## Please Be in Touch With Me

I am eager to be in touch  
with all members of  
the CSZ family  
whenever there are  
occasions of joy or sadness  
in your lives.

When there is a death  
in the family, please call  
me as soon as possible.  
We very much want to  
be there with you  
at a time of grief.

*Rabbi Camille  
Shira Angel*

*Earnings Devoted to Philanthropy*

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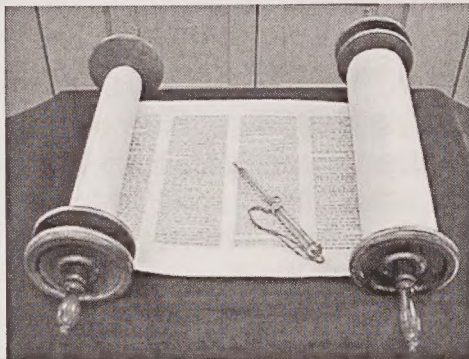
*Gene B. Kaufman, Executive Director  
Helen Schwartz, Pre-need Counselor*



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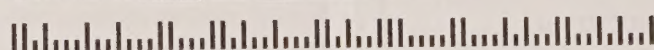
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ELUL / TISHREI 5767

**18 Elul**

**1**  
**9:00 am**  
Torch Study  
**10:00 am**  
Shabbat Service

## Selichot Service

**9:00 am** Torah Study  
**10:00 am** Shabbat Service  
**10:30 am** Tot Shabbat

**22 10**  
**9:30 am @ Herbst**  
**Yom Kippur**

29 17  
9:00 am  
Torch Study

Naomi Zingman-  
Daniels Bat Mitzvah



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> <b>19 Tishrei</b> 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	<b>2</b> 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7:00 pm Torah class	<b>3</b> Last Day Sukkot Office closed 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	<b>4</b> 10:00 am <b>Yizkor Sukkot</b> 6:30 pm Simchat Torah Service	<b>5</b> 6:00 pm Family Shabbat Service 8:15 pm Shabbat Service	<b>6</b> 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service
<b>7</b> 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	<b>8</b> 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	<b>9</b> 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7:00 pm Estate Planning Panel 7:00 pm Torah class	<b>10</b> 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	<b>11</b> 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	<b>12</b> 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	<b>13</b> 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service
<b>14</b> 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	<b>15</b> 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	<b>16</b> 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7:00 pm Torah class	<b>17</b> 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	<b>18</b> 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 6:45 pm Va'ad Meeting	<b>19</b> 6:30 pm Family Potluck 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	<b>20</b> 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service 10:30 am Tot Shabbat
<b>21</b> 10:30 am Baby Chavurah 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	<b>22</b> 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	<b>23</b> 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7:00 pm Torah class	<b>24</b> 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	<b>25</b> 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	<b>26</b> 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	<b>27</b> 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service
<b>28</b> 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	<b>29</b> 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	<b>30</b> 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	<b>31</b> 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	<b>1</b> 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	<b>2</b> 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	<b>3</b> 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service